

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. HERBERT H. BATEMAN**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 23, 1999*

Mr. BATEMAN. Mr. Speaker, along with two of my colleagues, I attended the funeral of former governor Mills Godwin of Virginia on Tuesday, February 2, 1999. As a result, I was absent for two recorded votes. Both votes were under suspension of the rules.

Had I been present, I would have voted as follows:

H.R. 68, Vote No. 7, "yea."

H.R. 432, Vote No. 8, "yea."

## A TRIBUTE TO ELI AND MARILYN HERTZ

**HON. NITA M. LOWEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 23, 1999*

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my great admiration for Eli and Marilyn Hertz, two outstanding individuals who will be honored by Camp Ramah in the Berkshires on March 13, 1999.

Eli Hertz, the founder and President of the Hertz Technology Group, is a towering figure in the personal computer industry. His computers have won numerous awards and are widely recognized among industry professionals and observers as the gold standard in quality, performance, and affordability. Marketing Computers lauded Hertz's vision, noting that he is "able to shift with industry changes \* \* \* a barometer of the future."

Eli Hertz's devotion to public service is as strong as his commitment to professional excellence. His efforts to build a strong Jewish community and a healthy relationship between the United States and Israel are especially notable.

Among the important organizations benefiting from Eli Hertz's leadership are the Joint High Level Advisory Panel to the U.S. Israel Science & Technology Commission, the Advisory Board for the New York-Israel Economic Development Partnership, the America-Israel Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and the American-Israel Public Affairs Committee. Mr. Hertz sponsored and authored portions of Partners for Change: How U.S.-Israel Cooperation Can Benefit America, a highly-respected blueprint for a new Middle-east.

Marilyn Hertz is herself an expert in computer programming, with extensive experience as a lecturer, as well as a co-founder and principal officer of the Hertz Technology Group. Now responsible for human resources and general management, Mrs. Hertz has been invaluable to the company's success and growth.

Marilyn Hertz is also active in a wide range of civic and charitable organizations, most especially the PTA and Camp Ramah, where her passion for the Jewish community and its children is given full expression every day.

Together, Eli and Marilyn Hertz represent the very best in our country—a personal devo-

tion to service, a professional commitment to excellence, and a visionary grasp of the opportunities open to all Americans in the future.

I am delighted that the Hertz's many friends and admirers are joining to recognize their accomplishments, and I am proud to add my accolades to this well-deserved tribute.

## IN HONOR OF JAMES LOUIS BIVINS

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 23, 1999*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of James Louis Bivins on his induction into the International Boxing Hall of Fame.

James Louis Bivins has led an admirable life. He overcame extreme hardships and disappointment, to become a role model to many. In his stellar professional boxing career from 1940 to 1955 James Louis Bivins went 85-25-1 with 31 knockouts. During his career he fought and defeated eight future world champions. From June 22, 1942 until February 25, 1946, during Boxing's Golden Age, Jimmy Bivins was undefeated going 28 bouts without a loss.

Since his retirement from professional boxing James Louis Bivins has given back to the city of Cleveland. As a world-class hall-of-fame athlete, Mr. Bivins has served as a mentor to hundreds of young boxers in his thirty years as a trainer on the west side of Cleveland.

My fellow colleagues, please join me in honoring Mr. Bivins for his induction into boxing's most hallowed club.

## KAZAKSTAN'S PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

**HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 23, 1999*

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring to the attention of my colleagues disturbing news about the presidential elections in Kazakhstan last month, and the general prospects for democratization in that country. On January 10, 1999, Kazakhstan held presidential elections, almost two years ahead of schedule. Incumbent President Nursultan Nazarbaev ran against three contenders, in the country's first nominally contested election. According to official results, Nazarbaev retained his office, garnering 81.7 percent of the vote. Communist Party leader Serokbolsyn Abdildin won 12 percent, Gani Kasymov 4.7 percent and Engels Gabbasov 0.7 percent. The Central Election Commission reported that over 86 percent of eligible voters turned out to cast ballots.

Behind these facts—and by the way, none of the officially announced figures should be taken at face value—is a sobering story. Nazarbaev's victory was no surprise: the entire election was carefully orchestrated and the only real issue was whether his official vote

tally would be in the 90s—typical for post-Soviet Central Asian dictatorships—or the 80s, which would have signaled a bit of sensitivity to Western and OSCE sensibilities. Any suspense the election might have offered vanished when the Supreme Court upheld a lower court ruling barring the candidacy of Nazarbaev's sole plausible challenger, former Prime Minister Akezhan Kazhegeldin, on whom many opposition activists have focused their hopes. The formal reason for his exclusion was both trivial and symptomatic: in October, Kazhegeldin had spoken at a meeting of an unregistered organization called "For Free Elections." Addressing an unregistered organization is illegal in Kazakhstan, and a presidential decree of May 1998 stipulated that individuals convicted of any crime or fined for administrative transgressions could not run for office for a year.

Of course, the snap election and the presidential decree deprived any real or potential challengers of the opportunity to organize a campaign. More important, most observers saw the decision as an indication of Nazarbaev's concerns about Kazakhstan's economic decline and fears of running for reelection in 2000, when the situation will presumably be even much worse. Another reason to hold elections now was anxiety about the uncertainties in Russia, where a new president, with whom Nazarbaev does not have long-established relations, will be elected in 2000 and may adopt a more aggressive attitude towards Kazakhstan than has Boris Yeltsin.

The exclusion of would-be candidates, along with the snap nature of the election, intimidation of voters, the ongoing attack on independent media and restrictions on freedom of assembly, moved the OSCE's Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) to call in December for the election's postponement, as conditions for holding free and fair elections did not exist. Ultimately, ODIHR refused to send a full-fledged observer delegation, as it generally does, to monitor an election. Instead, ODIHR dispatched to Kazakhstan a small mission to follow and report on the process. The mission's assessment concluded that Kazakhstan's "election process fell far short of the standards to which the Republic of Kazakhstan has committed itself as an OSCE participating State." That is an unusually strong statement for ODIHR.

Until the mid-1990s, even though President Nazarbaev dissolved two parliaments, tailored constitutions to his liking and was single-mindedly accumulating power, Kazakhstan still seemed a relatively reformist country, where various political parties could function and the media enjoyed some freedom. Moreover, considering the even more authoritarian regimes of Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan and the war and chaos in Tajikistan, Kazakhstan benefited by comparison.

In the last few years, however, the nature of Nazarbaev's regime has become ever more apparent. He has over the last decade concentrated all power in his hands, subordinating to himself all other branches and institutions of government. His apparent determination to remain in office indefinitely, which could have been inferred by his actions, became explicit during the campaign, when he told a crowd, "I would like to remain your president for the rest